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NO MORE ELECTIONS TO ALTER COUNTIES

Plan to Block Towns from Calling Elections According Present Law—Has Emergency Clause

Guthrie, Jan. 12.—There will be no more elections called to change county lines, form new counties, etc., if the bill introduced by Representative Ross yesterday is passed by the legislature.

Under the Tillotson bill, as passed by the First legislature, there are provisions whereby the people of one section of a county may petition and have an election called to cut off a portion of the county and attach it to another county, or may form a new county, etc. The Tillotson bill also provided for the election of officers for such new counties and provided a number of other details in regard to the matter.

Under this bill ambitious towns have sought to secure elections for the formation of new counties, the change of county lines, etc., in the hope of becoming the county seat, and considerable turmoil has resulted. Today there is a party of petitioners in Guthrie asking for an election under which they propose to cut off the southern portion of Comanche county and form a new county, to be known as Cache County. There have been several other movements along this line in that section of the state and elsewhere. The object of the Ross bill is to repeal the Tillotson measure, and it bears emergency clauses.

Speaker Wilson added the name of Jones of Oklahoma, of the minority, to the committee which will make the arrangements for the election of a United States senator. Owing to an error it has been reported that this would take place today. The date set is next Thursday, when each house will call the roll separately and the vote for senator will be recorded. On the next day the joint session of the two houses will be held, and the speeches of nomination made; each house will announce its vote for senator, and the regular announcement of the election will be made.

GUESTS MAKE SENSATIONAL ESCAPE FROM HOTEL FIRE

By Associated Press

Topeka, Kans., Jan. 14.—Topeka's famous hotel, the Copeland, noted as a stopping place of legislators and politicians was destroyed by fire early today.

I. E. Lambert, of Emporia, one of the most prominent attorneys and politicians of the state is missing and is believed to have been burned to death. A dozen of the one hundred and fifty guests were injured, but none are thought to be fatally hurt. There were many sensational escapes, several persons jumping from the windows.

The injured are: Mrs. W. Y. Morgan, wife of the editor of the Hutchinson News and a member of the legislature, leg broken.

W. C. Murray of Kansas City, insurance agent, ankle broken.

Thomas Benton Mardock, editor of the El Dorado Republican, slight.

A. W. Smith, department commander of the G. A. R. of Kansas and once a republican candidate for governor, ankle broken and hurt internally.

H. A. Rowland of McPherson, three ribs broken.

Mrs. B. L. Thompson, of Herington back hurt.

Representative S. C. Westcott, of Cherokee county, back and ankle wrecked.

H. C. Bone, of the state board of control, of Topeka, back sprained.

G. W. Goodlander, of Ft. Scott, leg hurt.

Paul Reed of Coolidge, back, side and arm hurt.

W. A. Elston, of Moline, sprains and bruises.

H. C. Bowman of Newton ankle and back sprained.

Ex-senator G. H. Lamb of Yates Center, internal injuries.

J. W. Davis of Greensburg, overcome by smoke. The fire started shortly after four o'clock this morning near the kitchen, apparently from escaping gas. The flames rapidly gained great headway, and the stairway was soon cut off. Henry Wells, the colored porter and William Jenkins

BLASTING POWDER LAW CAUSES MINERS TO STRIKE

Fort Smith, Ark., Jan. 12.—All of the coal miners in and around Coalgate, Okla., walked out of the mines yesterday, following a dispute with the mine operators regarding the observance of the state law providing only sufficient blasting powder for one day's use be carried into the mine. The miners, about a thousand in number, allege that the law was violated and the state was a result.

WILL INVESTIGATE EXCESSIVE LEVIES

In Some School Districts is Often Doubled County Tax and Larger by Far Than State Tax

Guthrie, Ok., Jan. 14.—State Examiner and Inspector Charles Taylor has announced that as soon as the bill providing for the reduction of excessive tax levies, which was passed by both houses yesterday, is signed by the governor, he will send inspectors into every county of the state and examine closely the tax levies. If any are found excessive, and the taxes are known to be so in many school districts and several counties, Mr. Taylor will report to the governor and the local boards will be asked to meet at once and reduce the levies to the constitutional limitation.

In many school districts the school tax is double and sometimes quadruple the county tax and many times larger than the state tax. In one school district the school tax upon one half section of land was \$132, or nearly 50 cents an acre. The administration realizes that these excessive district and county taxes will be laid to the Democrats now in control of the government, whereas the administration has reduced the state tax to 11-2 mills, and claims that the excessive taxes are due to extravagant levies of county and township boards of assessors. The governor will require all boards to reduce the levy to what is actually necessary for conducting the business of the county or school district for one year.

HOUSE PASSES EXTENSION BILL FOR TAX PAYMENT

Not a Dissenting Vote in Lower Branch of Legislature--Haskell Forces Win Out in Controversy Over Right to Institute Proceedings to Correct Illegal Tax Levies--Jones and Other Republicans Support Governor--Special Message Recommends Investigation of Tahlequah's Claims for Normal.

Guthrie, Okla., Jan. 12.—Without a dissenting vote the house yesterday afternoon passed a law deferring the time for payment of the first half of taxes to April 19, and the bill was hurried to the senate and read so that the rules will permit its final passage today. It is expected it will be a law by Thursday.

Upon motion of Ross the house reneged on its action of Friday by providing that suits be brought to correct the illegal levies by the attorney general under the direction of the governor as provided in the original bill, the Haskell forces turning the tables on West.

The vote on the roll call was 50 to 41. Several democrats voted against Haskell but Jones and enough republicans voted for him to carry the motion. Speaker Wilson announced the house committee, and although the republicans have more than a third of the members they were given but one place on the public representation on other important committees. Of the chairman of the principal committees: On rules Speaker Wilson, ex-officio; and Tillotson, Nowata; judiciary, Ross; Lawton; appropriations, Dunn, Oklahoma City; public service corporations, Whayne; Ardmore; revenue and taxation, J. W. Smith; Manchester, banks and banking, Price; Hominy; school lands, Maxey, Shaw-

nee; public buildings, Wilson, Mangum; roads, Putman, Oklahoma City; prohibition, Tucker, Ottawa county; elections, McCall; Marietta; oil and gas, Tillotson, Nowata; mining, Boyle, Haskell county; insurance, Gilmer, Ardmore; municipal corporations, code, election and constitutional amendments, Harrison, Calvin.

Governor Haskell submitted a special message to the legislature yesterday recommending an investigation of the claims of Tahlequah which is asking for one of the state normal schools. The message states that the old female seminary at that place, owned by the Cherokee nation, may be purchased through the Interior Department for \$45,000 if the option is taken before February 1. The message states that the buildings with grounds cost from \$150,000 to \$170,000.

Twenty-two bills were introduced in the house yesterday, one by Dunn repealing tax ferret law, another locating the southeastern normal at Durant, another by Boyle requiring the payment of wages in cash, one by Earl for the experiment station in Texas county, and by Casteel abolishing the death penalty. Sullivan, a republican and for thirty years a coal miner, introduced a bill for aged pensions for corporation employees and for an accident fund.

KATY FLYER CRASHED INTO A BUGGY AT WELCH

An accident that came near proving fatal to two men occurred at Welch late yesterday afternoon just as the south bound flyer reached that place. The two men in a well curtained buggy drove across the tracks, and evidently had not seen the rapidly approaching train, for they were driving at their leisure. The horses, however, sensed the danger just in time to jerk the buggy forward enough to save the lives of the two occupants. The engine crashed into the rear of the buggy and the fore part of it and the two men were sent sprawling into the ditch. The train was quickly stopped and backed up to the scene of the accident, when it was discovered that neither of the men had been seriously hurt.

POPULATION INCREASED 75,000 IN ONE YEAR

Guthrie, Okla., Jan. 13.—That the population of Oklahoma has increased at the wonderful rate of seventy-five thousand during the first year of statehood, is the claim of the State Board of Agriculture, based on their census taken last March. The exact figures at that time, seven months after the federal census of 1907 were 31,038 increased. Commenting on this, Governor Haskell in his message to the legislature, says these figures do not include the heavy immigration of spring and early summer. It is a safe estimate to place the increase of population for the year at 75,000.

VINITA POULTRY WON PLACES AT KANSAS CITY

The Vinita chicken made a remarkable showing in the poultry show in Kansas City last week. The Houdans from Windsor place (A. L. Churchill's ranch adjoining town) took prizes as follows: second cock, third cock, first cock, second fourth and fifth hen, and the first and second prize on pens. The white laced Cornish also won first on the pen. A pen consists of a male and four females. Mr. Churchill is justly elated over the success showing his poultry made in this show, which was open to the world.

FOLK SAYS HE COULD NOT ACCEPT SENATORSHIP

By Associated Press

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 13.—Ex-Governor Joseph W. Folk, when asked today in regard to the revelations of fraud in the senatorial primary election in St. Louis, made the following statement:

"I could not accept the senatorship now even if it could be shown that I was nominated. I do not think it incumbent upon me to ask further investigation."

VINITANS HURT IN KATY WRECK

Nine Coaches of Flyer Plunge into Ditch Twenty Miles from St. Louis—None Killed

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 13.—Thirty persons were injured, four seriously, yesterday afternoon when the Katy Flyer on the M. & T. went into the ditch at Hamburg, Mo., seventy miles from St. Louis, while rounding a curve at thirty-five miles an hour.

Nobody was killed, but the 200 passengers on the train were hurled headlong in every direction.

Nine coaches left the track and the majority of those inside the coaches escaped by climbing out of windows.

The injured were lifted out the same way and for about six hours stood about in the snowdrifts awaiting a relief train. The train, which is due in St. Louis at 8 a. m., was eight hours late at Hamburg, a town of less than 200. Two engines were battling their way through the drifts, the flyer being the first train through yesterday.

While plunging around the curve where the wreck occurred, the front trucks on the first car, a chair car, gave way and every coach followed it from the tracks.

Seven of the nine rolled over on their sides and were dragged 300 feet before the engines, which did not leave the tracks, could be stopped. Among the list of injured appeared Mrs. C. H. Redeman, Vinita, Okla.; taken to St. Johns Hospital; internal injuries, condition serious; and C. H. Redeman, Vinita, Okla., cuts.

HOWLAND CLAIMED HE WAS TOUCHED AT VINITA

Bill Passed by Senate Repeals County High School Law—Appropriation Bill Passed.

The Tulsa World this morning contained the following report of a robbery here yesterday:

I. R. Howland, of Carlton, Mo., at Vinita yesterday, while en route to Tulsa to visit his sister, Mrs. F. M. Himes, was touched for \$20 by a confidence man who claimed to be a Mr. Adams, hardware dealer of Tulsa.

Mr. Howland met the man at the train, and as the fellow seemed friendly and willing to tell about Tulsa, they became well acquainted. In changing cars at Vinita, the "friend" according to Mr. Howland's story managed to slip Mr. Howland's pocket book from his hip pocket. After taking out four five dollar bills, he was liberal enough to put the pocket book back into the owner's pocket.

Fugitive Caught Near Welch

T. J. Gambill, the prisoner who jumped from the flyer Sunday evening as he was being brought to the jail here from Dallas Tex., and who has since been a fugitive was captured today near Welch by deputies Woodall and Ritchey, and will be brought here this evening.

MUSKOGEE SUSTAINS FIRE LOSS OF ABOUT \$250,000

By Associated Press

Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 13.—A fire that broke out this morning in the Saratoga restaurant, in the third story, and spread to the Carolina and German buildings and threatened the entire block bounded by Third, Broadway, Okmulgee and Fourth streets in the business district. Several roomers had narrow escapes, but it is believed no lives were lost.

The water pressure was inadequate and the fire was not placed under control until eleven o'clock, after having burned for several hours. The loss is estimated at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

FACTIONAL STRIFE BEGINS TO APPEAR

Republicans in State Legislature are not Harmonious Over Result of Recent Caucus

Guthrie Jan. 13.—Factional strife has already developed in the minority of both houses of the state legislature.

In the senate, Minority Leader Beeler is openly denouncing Senator Brownlee, of Kingfisher, who succeeded in getting more committee assignments than he did.

In the house the minority elected Representative Clark, of Pawnee as their leader over C. G. Jones, of Oklahoma City. Jones, who wants to be the republican nominee for governor, does not admit Clark's leadership and has since the opening session consumed more time on the floor than all republicans combined. Clark is indignant at Jones' assumed leadership, and it is said that he has appealed to State Chairman Norris to relegate Jones to the rear. Norris, however, openly opposed Jones for leadership and therefore has no private pull with the Oklahoma City fighter.

With Brownlee fighting the Norris crowd in the senate, and Jones assuming authority to speak for his party in the house, the "organization" crowd finds itself with a well matured strap on its hands just at a time when Norris had arranged his program for legislative blockade.

SEVERAL SHOCKS FELT AT FLORENCE ITALY

By Associated Press

Florence, Italy, Jan. 13.—Several earthquake shocks were recorded here this morning at intervals of two seconds. People rushed out from their houses, fearing a repetition of the Sicilian disaster. No damage was done however and calm was soon restored.

Venice, Jan. 13.—Two earthquake shocks were felt here and at Milan this morning. People rushed from their houses and gathered at the open square, no damage was done however.

MILDER TEMPERATURE PREVAILS IN OKLAHOMA

By Associated Press

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 13.—Milder weather prevailed in western Missouri Kansas and Oklahoma today and snow continues to fall. The temperature generally is above zero. Muskogee, Wagoner and Inola, Okla., were without gas owing to a break in the gas main and the populace of these places suffered intensely. It is reported that many cattle have perished.

SELF CONFESSED EMBEZZLER SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS

By Associated Press

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 14.—Alonzo F. Springer, formerly chief deputy surveyor of United States customs here pleaded guilty, today, to embezzling from the government. He was fined and sentenced to the government penitentiary at Ft. Leavenworth for four years. Springer was secretary of the republican state central committee, five years ago.

The following buildings, mostly three and four story brick structures, with their contents were destroyed: The German, Carolina and Evans buildings; Halloway & Ross, ladies' furnishings; Mittum drug store; Keystone tailors; Mike Adams' Billiard room; Nonpareil millinery store; Consume's Coffee and Tea company; Pierson's photograph gallery; the Chief Bakery and a Carlo store and many real estate and business offices.

The department was practically helpless and the fire burned itself out, after destroying almost the entire block.